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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
George B. Rockstein et al :
Application No. 09/346,859 : DECISION GRANTING PETITION
Filed: July 2, 1999 : UNDER 37 CFR 1.137(b)
Attorney Docket No. 056103-5072-07 :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b), filed July 23, 2004, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to reply in a timely manner to the non-final Office action mailed October 15, 2001, which set a shortened statutory period for reply of three (3) months. No extensions of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) were obtained. Accordingly, the above-identified application became abandoned on January 16, 2002. A Notice of Abandonment was mailed on October 22, 2002.

The petition satisfies the conditions for revival pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(b) in that (1) the reply to the outstanding Office action of October 15, 2001; (2) the petition fee; and (3) an adequate statement of unintentional delay have been received. Accordingly, the reply to the nonfinal Office action of October 15, 2001 is accepted as having been unintentionally delayed.

The above-identified application has been abandoned for an extended period of time. The Patent and Trademark Office is relying on petitioner's duty of candor and good faith and accepting the statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional. See Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure, 62 Fed. Reg. at 53160 and 53178; 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office at 88 and 103 (responses to comments 64 and 109) (applicant obligated under 37 CFR 10.18 to inquire into the underlying facts and

circumstances when providing the statement required by 37 CFR 1.137(b) to the Patent and Trademark Office).

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (703) 305-8680.

The application file is being forwarded to Technology Center AU 2876 for appropriate action as the nature of the case may require.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frances Hicks".

Frances Hicks
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy